

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated April 17, 2008, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, 21 and 22 and canceled claims 10 and 20. Claims 1-9, 11-19 and 21-22 are in the case. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 11, 12, 15 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kumada (U.S. Patent No. 6,310,696) in view of Ito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,388,674). The Office Action rejected claims 3, 4 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kumada in view of Ito et al. and further in view of Fukui (U.S. Patent No. 7,233,694).

The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and contends that the combined cited references do not disclose the Applicants' claimed identifying overlapping areas in a wide gamut, a narrow gamut and a printer gamut, determining when the narrow gamut overlaps one or more areas of the wide gamut, utilizing the narrow gamut values when areas of the narrow gamut and the wide gamut overlap, selecting a wide gamut interpolation point corresponding to the surface of the printer gamut when narrow gamut areas do not overlap the wide gamut, selecting a narrow gamut interpolation point by mapping the narrow gamut to the printer gamut based upon the predetermined mapping when narrow gamut areas do not overlap the wide gamut and interpolating the narrow gamut interpolation point and the wide gamut interpolation point to expand the narrow gamut values into the printer gamut.

In contrast, the combined cited references merely disclose a color gamut expression method for realizing a color gamut checking function in a color management system (see Summary of Kumada), a gamut mapping method designed to attain a natural color reproduction at different kinds of devices in a picture input/output system such as DTP (see Summary of Ito et al.) and an image capturing apparatus and method for enabling a user to confirm an out-of-gamut region of a captured image in a predetermined color space in accordance with an image capturing condition (see Summary of Fukui).

However, the Examiner stated that claims 6-10 and 16-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, although the Applicant contends that all of the claims are

allowable before the present amendment, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this case, the Applicant has canceled claims 10 and 20 and moved the allowable limitations of claims 10 and 20 to rejected independent claims 1 and 11, respectively. Also, the Applicant has moved the allowable limitations of claim 10 to rejected independent claims 21 and 22.

Hence, the Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are now allowable. Consequently, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are moot.

In view of the arguments and amendments set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejected claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding claim rejections and to pass this application to issue. Additionally, in an effort to expedite and further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicant kindly invites the Examiner to telephone the Applicant's attorney at (818) 885-1575. Please note that all correspondence should continue to be directed to:

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Respectfully submitted,
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